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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 12 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 1 April 2017 regarding the escalation of the situation on the front line provoked by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia in April 2016 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 32 and 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the escalation of the situation on the front line in April 2016

One year has passed since the April 2016 escalation on the front line. On 2 April 2016, the armed forces of Armenia increased fighting from their positions in the occupied territories, subjecting the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the line of contact and the adjacent densely populated areas under the control of Azerbaijan to intensive fire with heavy artillery and large-calibre weapons. As a result of Armenia's attacks and subsequent hostilities, 34 towns and villages in Azerbaijan were shelled, and 6 civilians, including children, were killed and 33 seriously wounded. Substantial damages were inflicted upon private and public property.

The armed forces of Azerbaijan have taken, within the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the counter measures necessary to ensure the safety of the civilian population and to stop further provocations of Armenia.

Armenia's provocative offensive actions also caused casualties and injuries among the servicemen of the armed forces of Azerbaijan. Numerous signs of post-mortem mutilation of the bodies of Azerbaijani servicemen committed by the Armenian side were also registered.

On 5 April 2016, in Moscow, under the mediation efforts of the Russian Federation, a ceasefire was agreed between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Despite that agreement, Armenia subjected the civilian Azerbaijani population in the towns and villages situated along the line of contact to intensive heavy artillery fire on 26 and 27 April 2016.

The April escalation once again demonstrated that the unlawful presence of the armed forces of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan remains the main cause of escalation on the front line and is the major impediment to the political settlement of the conflict.

After the April escalation, upon the initiative of the Foreign Ministers of the Co-Chair countries of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a meeting of the presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia was organized in Vienna on 16 May 2016. At the invitation of the president of the Russian Federation, the presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation met in Saint Petersburg on 20 June 2016 and held substantive negotiations towards the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

However, since then, through deliberate political and military provocations and under various pretexts, Armenia has not made it possible to sustain the momentum for transforming the understandings reached at the Saint Petersburg meeting into concrete actions and for reducing tensions and has not begun the withdrawal of its troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The recent statements and warmongering rhetoric of the political and military leadership of Armenia, and its attempts to boycott and set preconditions for the substantive negotiations, indicate the apparent unwillingness of Armenia to engage constructively in the settlement of the conflict. Continued efforts of Armenia towards strengthening its military build-up in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

and illegally changing the demographic, cultural and physical character of these territories reveal notorious intentions on the Armenian side to derail the peace process and ensure the annexation of Azerbaijan's territories.

The Republic of Azerbaijan once again underlines that it will never reconcile with the occupation of its territories. The resolution of the conflict is possible only on the basis of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders.

The principled basis for the settlement of the conflict is laid down in Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), which condemn the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories and reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders. In those resolutions, the Security Council reaffirmed that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

We urge the international community and the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to demand that Armenia engage constructively in substantive negotiations with a view to withdrawing its armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, changing the status quo of the occupation and ensuring lasting peace in the region.

United Nations S/2017/333

Security Council

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25 April 2017

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Note verbale dated 11 April 2017 from the Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to attach herewith (see annex), on behalf of its Government in its capacity as Chair of the twenty-eighth ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level, two resolutions adopted by the League of Arab States during the session:

- Resolution 683, entitled "Developments in the situation in the Republic of Yemen"
- Resolution 687, entitled "The occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands in the Arab Gulf belonging to the United Arab Emirates: Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa"

The Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations requests the circulation of the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council, in connection with the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East".

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Annex to the note verbale dated 11 April 2017 from the Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Developments in the situation in Yemen

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- The recommendation made by the group charged with following up on the implementation of resolutions and commitments at the ministerial level at its second meeting held in Amman on 27 March 2017,

Decides

1. To emphasize the importance of the security, stability, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yemen, and also to emphasize that it continues to support the constitutional legitimacy vested in His Excellency Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour, President of the Republic of Yemen;

2. To emphasize that a peaceful solution in Yemen should be based on the three agreed terms of reference, namely the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and its implementing mechanism, the outcomes of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference and the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2216 (2015); and to commend the efforts of the United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, to relaunch the political process on the basis of the aforementioned terms of reference;

3. To thank His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, and the Kuwaiti people, for the ongoing vital and considerable role of Kuwait in supporting the Yemeni people and sponsoring, facilitating and hosting efforts to achieve peace in Yemen;

4. To commend the positions taken by the Yemeni Government in support of United Nations efforts to achieve peace in Yemen, and its endeavours to bring an end to the war and alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people, ensure the flow of food and medical aid, ensure that salaries are paid in all regions of Yemen, rebuild what has been destroyed by the coup perpetrators' war machine, combat extremism and terrorism, and rebuild civilian and military State institutions in the areas liberated from the control of coup forces;

5. To strongly condemn the unilateral actions taken by the coup authors, who have established a so-called Political Council and an illegitimate government; consistently refused to accept confidence-building measures; failed to free detainees; hampered the efforts of the Special Envoy, including the meetings of the de-escalation committee; and taken other illegal measures that undermine the political process and exacerbate the suffering of the Yemeni people;

6. To strongly condemn all of the coup authors' actions that have damaged Yemen's social fabric, including assassinations, imprisonment, forced recruitment of children with a view to their deployment on the battlefield, besieging cities, blowing up homes and places of worship, denying humanitarian supplies to people in need or under siege, planting landmines, forcibly displacing populations, selling relief

supplies, looting banks and retirement funds, using those funds to prolong the war and destruction, persistently engaging in military operations in Yemen and across the borders, threatening the movement of maritime transport and navigation in regional and international corridors and waters, and taking other actions that amount to war crimes that are punishable under international law; to call on the international community and all international human rights organizations to take swiftly a resolute position regarding those violations, and to deem the actions of the coup authors to be flagrant violations of international law and of all international human rights instruments;

7. To condemn Iran's ongoing acts of interference, which undermine the stability and sovereignty of the Republic of Yemen; and to call on the international community, as represented by the Security Council, to place pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran to bring an end to its acts of hostility against the Yemeni people and respect the sovereignty of the Yemeni State;

8. To welcome the role of the Arab Coalition and of all Arab States in supporting the legitimate authorities in Yemen and the Yemeni people, and in working towards the resumption of the peace process, the end of the war, the restoration of the Yemeni State and the reconstruction of Yemen; to express the deepest thanks to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for contributing support, in the amount of $10 million, towards the reconstruction of Yemen and the Central Bank of Yemen, and also to the King Salman bin Abdulaziz Centre for providing humanitarian assistance to the Yemeni people; to express gratitude for the efforts, contributions and sacrifices made by the United Arab Emirates with a view to supporting the legitimate authorities, restoring stability, bringing an end to the war, providing humanitarian and relief assistance, and rebuilding Yemen; to thank Qatar for supporting the people and legitimate Government of Yemen with a view to realizing security, stability and reconstruction; to thank the Government of the Sudan for supporting the legitimate authorities and people of Yemen, providing humanitarian and medical assistance and treating the war wounded; and to thank the Republic of Djibouti for working to support the Yemeni people and for hosting Yemeni refugees;

9. To call on States members and the international community to provide the political, security, economic and financial support needed to enable the Republic of Yemen to confront challenges and respond urgently to its development needs, in order to address difficult economic and humanitarian conditions that have become unbearable and cannot be ignored, and to complete arrangements for the transitional phase.

(Summit resolution 683 — 28th ordinary session — third meeting — 29 March 2017)

The occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands in the Arabian Gulf belonging to the United Arab Emirates: the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- The recommendation made by the group charged with following up on the implementation of resolutions and commitments at the ministerial level at its second meeting held in Amman on 27 March 2017,

Guided by previous summit resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 651 of the Nouakchott summit (27th ordinary session) dated 25 July 2016, regarding the occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands in the Arabian Gulf belonging to the United Arab Emirates: the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa,

Reaffirming the communiqués issued and the resolutions adopted on the same matter by the Council at the ministerial level, the most recent of which was resolution 8123 (147th ordinary session) dated 7 March 2017,

Decides

1. To reaffirm without qualification the absolute sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and to support all peaceful measures and means adopted by the United Arab Emirates to regain its sovereignty over the occupied islands;

2. To denounce the continued consolidation by the Iranian Government of its occupation of the three islands and its violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates, which can only undermine security and stability in the region and pose a threat to international peace and security;

3. To condemn the building by the Iranian Government of housing facilities in which to settle Iranians on the three occupied United Arab Emirates islands;

4. To condemn the Iranian military manoeuvres being conducted also on the three occupied islands of the United Arab Emirates, namely, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and in those islands' territorial waters, airspace, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone, which constitute an inseparable part of the United Arab Emirates; and to request Iran to desist from such violations and acts of provocation, which constitute interference in the internal affairs of an independent, sovereign State; do not promote confidence-building; threaten security and stability in the region; and endanger the security and safety of regional and international navigation in the Arabian Gulf;

5. To condemn the opening by Iran of two offices on the island of Abu Musa, which belongs to the United Arab Emirates, and to call upon Iran to close down those illegitimate facilities and respect the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its territory;

6. To denounce and condemn the planned fact-finding visit of the members of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Consultative Assembly to the occupied islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, namely, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, an act that would violate the

sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its territory and would be inconsistent with attempts to find a peaceful settlement; and to call upon Iran to desist from taking such provocative steps;

7. To commend the United Arab Emirates on its initiative to find a peaceful and just settlement to the issue of the three occupied islands (the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa) with the Islamic Republic of Iran;

8. To appeal once again to the Iranian Government to end its occupation of the three islands of the United Arab Emirates, refrain from trying to impose a fait accompli by force, desist from establishing any installations there for the purpose of modifying the islands' demographic composition, revoke all measures unilaterally taken and remove all installations built by Iran on the three Arab islands, inasmuch as such measures and claims are null and void, lack any legal effect, do not detract from the established right of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands and are acts that run counter to the provisions of international law and the Geneva Conventions of 1949; and to call upon the Iranian Government to adopt peaceful means for resolving the existing dispute over them in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, including agreement to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice;

9. To express the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will reconsider its position of rejecting the effort to find a peaceful solution to the question of the three occupied islands of the United Arab Emirates either through direct, earnest negotiations or through recourse to the International Court of Justice;

10. To call upon Iran to translate its stated desire for improved relations with the Arab countries and for dialogue and détente into practical measures, both in word and in deed, in the form of a genuine response to the earnest appeals launched by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and by the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab States, international groups, friendly nations and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, calling for a solution to the dispute over the three occupied islands by peaceful means in accordance with customary practice and the covenants and rules of international law, either through direct, earnest negotiations or through recourse to the International Court of Justice, with a view to building trust and enhancing security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region;

11. To have all Arab States undertake, in their contacts with Iran, to raise the issue of that country's occupation of the three islands and stress the need to end it, based on the fact that the three islands are occupied Arab territory;

12. To inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council of the importance of maintaining the issue on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized until Iran ends its occupation of the three Arab islands and the United Arab Emirates regains full sovereignty over them;

13. To request the Secretary-General of the League to follow up this matter and report to the Council of the League at its next ordinary session.

(Summit resolution 687 — 28th ordinary session — third meeting — 29 March 2017)